

BOOK REVIEW OF *THE BOURNE BETRAYAL*
WRITTEN BY ERIC VAN LUSTBADER

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Abstract

The purposes of this final project is to study about book review of The Bourne Betrayal novel book. The Bourne Betrayal is the fifth book of Jason Bourne novel series who is the original author Robert Ludlum and continued by Eric Van Lustbader. The genre of this book is thriller-action and adventure. In this final project I will discuss about the profile of the author of The Bourne Betrayal novel book, the summary of the book, the strengths and the weaknesses. This book review may help for people who is have a big interest of Jason Bourne story.

Keyword: Book Review, novel book, Jason Bourne, Eric Van Lustbader.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

From *An Introduction to The Study of Literature* by William Henry Hudson, A good books, should have the power to be memorable to its reader. (1970:11). *The Bourne Betrayal* is a novel written by Eric Van Lustbader, this novel is the fifth of The Bourne Series novel series. Based on the writer perspective, *The Bourne Betrayal* is one of the thriller books which qualified for critical evaluation. This novel able to provides constant excitement and successfully draws the reader tension until the end of the story.

In this book review essay the writer focused on the brief descriptions and critical review of the story. In addition, reviewing *The Bourne Betrayal* can be one of method to more easily understanding the content of the book. Importantly, this book review also aims to give not only positive but also negative reviews where the writer gives honest reasoned opinion of the content of the story.

Moreover, there is only a few study which analysis *The Bourne Betrayal* novel is one the most popular novel which worth to read.

1.1. Eric Van Lustbader and His Works

Eric Van Lustbader was born in 24 December 1946 at Greenwich Village, New York, United States. He was graduated from Columbia College, Columbia University with a degree in sociology. Before Eric became a writer he used to work at New York public school system, where he holds

the license in elementary and kindergarten school. He also worked in music industry with Elektra Records and CBS Records. He was the writer in the United States who predicted John Elton music career in *Cash Box* Magazine (weekly magazine about music industry in US) , afterward Eric and John Elton became a friend, Eric also wrote music career prediction of Santana, The Who, David Bowie, the Jimi Hendrix Experience and many other musicians.

He began write novel in 1975, his first novel was *The Ninja*, his most popular novel in the bookstores from Bangkok to Dublin. Eric was also asked by DC comics to write graphic novel for his favorite character, Batman. Eric published "*Batman*" *The Dark Angel*, and this novel was selected as Monthly Choice of the Quality Paperback Book Club. In 2003, Eric was asked to continue Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Series novel by the publisher. Robert Ludlum was the original writer of the trilogy of The Jason Bourne series: *The Bourne Identity* in 1980, *The Bourne Supremacy* in 1986, and *The Bourne Ultimatum* in 1990. When he died in 2001 Eric was asked to continue Ludlum's work and ever since The Bourne series became number one of New York Times Bestselling Author. Eric continued to write Bourne Series under Robert Ludlum's name, the series made by Eric are:

1. *The Bourne Legacy* in 2004
2. *The Bourne Betrayal* in 2007
3. *The Bourne Sanction* in 2008
4. *The Bourne Deception* in 2009
5. *The Bourne Objective* in 2010
6. *The Bourne Dominion* in 2011
7. *The Bourne Imperative* in 2012

8. *The Bourne Retribution* in 2013
9. *The Bourne Ascendancy* in 2014
10. *The Bourne Enigma* in 2015

The Jason Bourne novel series was also adapted to movie version, *The Bourne*

Identity, *The Bourne Supremacy*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *The Bourne Legacy* starred by Matt Damon as Jason Bourne the protagonist described former CIA agent who suffered from amnesia. The movie version of *The Bourne Betrayal* will be released in 2016.

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF *THE BOURNE BETRAYAL* NOVEL

At the beginning, CIA counter terrorism unit Skorpion One lead by Martin Lindros is secretly tracking a cargo of uranium, which is suspected as a part of the nuclear weapon device. Unfortunately, they find a victim corpse instead of uranium. As their leader, Martin Lindros commands them to back off. Unexpectedly, their helicopter is shot down by the terrorist group with the Russian rocket launcher. After a deadly fight between Skorpion One against a terrorist group, the terrorist commander called Fadi successfully kidnapping Martin Lindros and tells his comrades to burn all the corpse of Skorpion One team along with the helicopter wreckage. Fadi introduces himself as Abu Ghazi Nadir Al-Jamuh ibn Hamid while torturing Lindros.

Meanwhile, in America, Jason Bourne a former CIA agent is getting treatment for his Amnesia at Dr. Sunderland's psychiatrist clinic recommended by Martin Lindros. Actually Dr. Sunderland is Costin Veintrop, a Romanian assassin, who is hired by Abu Ghazi to shatter and manipulate Bourne's memories. After Bourne notices a picture of Dr. Sunderland's wife, he suddenly

remembers that his wife, named Marie Kreutz already dead because of Pneumonia. Bourne realizes that he does not remember his wife face. Dr. Sunderland then giving him another therapy to restore his memory.

At the moment, CIA calls Bourne to inform that Martin Lindros is kidnapped by terrorist in Ethiopia and CIA now in *Code Mesa*, high emergency situation in the intelligence agency. Bourne backs to CIA buildings on 23rd Street NW, Washington, D.C. which is registered as Department of Agriculture building. Bourne does not only meet with several members of CIA, Anne Held, Sorraya Moore, and Tim Hytner but also CIA prisoner named Hiram Cevik. They are discussing about saving Lindros and finding the uranium. After the discussion, Bourne ask Cevik to come out from the building so he can gather more information from him. Suddenly an armed group who tries to save Cevik attack Bourne while Hytner is coming from the building accidentally he is shot and dead. Cevik successfully escape along with the armed group. Meanwhile Bourne and Sorraya try to chase them with the motorcycle.

The CIA agents and Bourne find the empty Hummer car inside a tunnel. Unexpectedly the car explodes and killing all of CIA agents. It is a trap to prevent the CIA to find Cevik. Able to survive from the trap, Bourne and Sorraya begin to track Fadi. They find out that Fadi is taking a

flight from London to Addis Ababa and Djibouti.

Bourne and Sorraya together go to Ras Dejen, Ethiopia. At the location where all of the CIA teams are lost, they find a rotten corpse which has the same similarities with the corpse that Skorpion One find inside a cave. Suddenly an unknown child comes to Bourne, and he says that he knows one of the Skorpion One unit who survive from the ambush. The child guides them to the church meet the pilot of the helicopter.

The pilot says that all of Skorpion One except him and Lindros are dead. However Lindros is still captivated by Abu Ghazi, the pilot explains that since the beginning the terrorist already planning to set a trap, kill all of CIA agents and kidnapping Lindros. Bourne finds a safe house where Lindros was previously imprisoned. In that place Bourne meets with Lindros imposter who actually Karim Al Jamil, Abu Ghazi sidekick. Karim tries to distract Bourne by giving him a fake information. Karim then asks him to meet Feyodovich and Edor Vladovich Lemontov alone in Odessa, Ukraine.

Bourne agrees to meet them, however after they meet each other, Bourne realizes that Feyodovich and Lemontov are hired by Abu Ghazi to kill Bourne. After Bourne kills them, Abu Ghazi comes the scene. Before they encountered on the fight,

Abu Ghazi explains that everything he does is revenge for his sister's death. In the middle of the fight, Sorraya comes with her boxer dog which then bite Abu Ghazi until his dead.

Bourne realizes that there is a traitor inside CIA, which informs Abu Ghazi about Bourne personal life and his weakness. Bourne finds out that Karim is the double agent on both the terrorist group and the CIA. Bourne also finds the real Lindros, Costin Veintrop and his wife Katya Veintrop in a safe house in Pakistan. Costin and Katya try to explode the safe house to prevent Bourne and Lindros to get away. Costin shoot Lindros immediately Bourne shoots back Katya to death. Before Lindros is dead, he tells Bourne about the terrorist plan to bombing Washington, D.C. using the stolen uranium nuclear bomb. Costin deactivates the bomb to save his wife and get away.

Back to CIA headquarters in Washington, Bourne catches Karim, who is a traitor. Bourne shoots Karim to death. Moreover Bourne also discovers a nuclear bomb inside the headquarters. In the end of the novel, Bourne and Sorraya are walking together around a pedestrian in Hudson River. They are remembering about Lindros. They both agree that Lindros right now must be rest in peace and does not suffer anymore.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF THE ERIC VAN LUSTBADER

NOVEL BOOK OF *THE BOURNE BETRAYAL*

According to Norhaili Massari in his book entitled *Introduction to Literature ECL3143*, Literature is the representation of human in language, both written or spoken (2014:12). Luckas in his book titled *The Theory of Novel*, Novel is a narrative story that tells about a problem or an event in indirect ways, but it still has the main point (Luckas, 1971:25). Mieke Bal in her book titled *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*, Narrative text is a kind of writing to tell a story in a specific medium such as language, symbolism, sound, structures, and many other (Bal,1999: 5).

3.1. The Strengths and Weaknesses of the Novel

Every literature work always has their own strengths and weaknesses that make them different from another work. In this occasion, the writer will be describe strong and weak points of the novel *The Bourne Betrayal*.

3.1.1. The Strengths of the Novel

The first strength of the novel *The Bourne Betrayal* is that this novel is worth for reading especially for people who like thrillers book. The most important

characteristic of this novel is element of suspense where the readers cannot guess the plot so that the story does not make the reader become tired easily. The novel *The Bourne Betrayal* is able to make the readers reading the book until the final moments with the constant excitement, tension and curiosity. The unpredictable story about a former CIA agent with broken memories in struggling to fight the evilness is not a cheap story where of any kind people cannot make it.

"A sound filled his ears, as if his head had been submerged in water. To anyone else it was as soft as a discreet cough; to him it was loud enough to make him believe that the world had been torn apart. Then the bullet entered his brain and there was nothing but a terrible, all-encompassing silence.

The problem now," Soraya said as she and Bourne fit the grille back into place, "is how to get you to a doctor."

On the beach, they could hear the shouts of the policemen. There were more of them now. Possibly the police launches had tied up at the yacht club so their personnel could join in the hunt. Powerful searchlights crisscrossed the area visible to them through the grille. In that rather poor illumination, Soraya took her first close look at the wound. "It's deep, but seems clean enough," she told him. "Clearly, it hasn't punctured an organ. Otherwise you'd be flat on your back." The question that plagued her, that she couldn't answer, was how much blood he had lost, therefore how much his stamina might be affected. On the other hand, she'd seen him go full-out for thirty-six hours with a bullet lodged in his shoulder (Lustbader,2007:286)

Based on the quotation above, *The Bourne Betrayal* book is full with the never ending action where the main character not only faces danger until the final moment but

also struggles to solve the mystery. In this case, Bourne deals with the constant violence which makes him get numerous injury. Importantly, the constant action is suitably for adrenaline rush seeker.

The second strength of this novel is Lustbader successfully develops the story from the former author of the books, Robert Ludlum. Lustbader is able to give a soul to the main character where the readers without consciously growing their sympathy to the main characters so that they can feel that they are part of the journey. Lustbader describes the character of Bourne as a man with trust issue with a tragic past life. The story of Bourne who lost his wife and his memory makes the story full of high expectation since the beginning. The nature development of the main character makes the story more interesting. In the beginning while Bourne suffered memory loss, he was described as a man who looks pitiful.

"Marie was trained from an early age to take care of herself in the wilderness. She had no fear of it whatsoever."

"Sometimes," the coroner had said, "a little fear is a good thing."

"You have no right to judge her!" Bourne had cried out in anger and grief.

"You've spent too much time with the dead," Lindros had berated the coroner.

"You need to work on your people skills." "My apologies."

Bourne had caught his breath and, turning to Lindros, said, "She phoned me, she thought it was just a cold."
(Lustbader,2007:25)

However in the middle of the story the Bourne character develops into man who successfully defeat his anxiety and fight against the terrorist. Importantly, Lustbader manages to develop Bourne character without makes the reader lost the most important point.

3.1.2. The Weaknesses of the Novel

The first weakness of this novel is the existence of several story lines that do not make senses. Since the beginning, Bourne is described as a person who has trust issue and is extremely concerned with a tiny detail because he was a former CIA agent. However Bourne lets himself to get treatment for memory loss and depression from suspicious psychiatrist named Dr. Sunderland.

"So, Mr. Bourne, when did the memory flashes begin?" There was the distinct tinge of a Romanian accent to Dr. Sunderland's English. Here was a man, with his high, wide forehead, strong-lined jaw, and prominent nose, that one could easily have confidence in, confide in. He wore steel-rimmed glasses and his hair was slicked back in a curious, old-fashioned style. No PDA for him, no text-messaging on the run. Above all, no multi-tasking. He wore a three-piece suit of heavy Harris tweed, a red-and-white polka-dot bow tie."(Lustbader,2007:26)

The facts that Dr. Sunderland has East European accents even he says that he is native American. Actually Bourne grows distrust to Dr. Sunderland but weirdly he decides to keep in touch with the doctor. In addition, even Bourne grows his distrust to Dr. Sunderland, he lets the doctor keep injecting him. It is odd for a former CIA agent who is accustomed to be aware of every single thing not avoiding a potential risk.

The second weakness of this novel is the crucial point that a single terrorist man can fool entire CIA agents by disguising himself into somebody else. The conflict of the *The Bourne Betrayal* raises after a man named Fadi distinguishes himself into a prisoner named Hiram Cevik, and Karim,

becomes Lindros, head of CIA counter terrorism, in front of entire CIA agents without anybody noticing. There are too many scenes that show a man pretending into somebody else and successfully fooling CIA agents.

"Bourne brought up the photo of Hiram Cevik. Fadi. How many other identities had this mastermind assumed over the years? It seemed probable that surveillance cameras, closed-circuit TV cameras, in public places, had recorded his image, but he'd doubtless looked different every time. Bourne had advised Soraya to go over all the tapes or still photos available of the areas just before and after the Dujja attacks, comparing the faces etched there with this photo of Cevik, although he had little hope she'd find anything. He himself had had his photo taken by surveillance cameras and CCTV over the years. He had no worries because the Chameleon had looked different in every one. No one could spot any similarities; he'd made damn sure of that. So Fadi, the chameleon." (Lustbader, 2007:118)

Moreover, the technology which makes somebody, in this case Karim, can disguise himself into one of CIA agents by using make up to change his face and his voice is not even available until now.

The last weakness of this novel is that the readers find some unfamiliar abbreviations and strange terms which are not explained in this novel. These words are confusing for some readers from foreign countries like Indonesia to understand the meaning of the terms. Here are the examples of unfamiliar abbreviations and strange terms in the novel of *The Bourne Betrayal* :

"Karim nodded, leaned forward, and told the driver to slow down as the wail of the sirens from police, **EMTs**, and fire department vehicles rose, then fell away. "Halliday seems intent on increasing the Pentagon's power. Taking over CI, remaking it in its own image. We can use the chaos caused by this interagency warfare to our advantage" (Lustbader, 2007:453)

From the sentence the word **EMT** is abbreviation from Emergency Medical Technician. Emergency Medical Technician is a part of health care provider to respond quickly dealing with patient who suffered from injuries because of accident or severe pain.

"In something of a blind panic, Yevgeny Feyodovich did as she ordered, wrenching open the door, climbing in. He slammed the door shut, and she pulled out from the curb. That was when he became aware of someone sitting unmoving on the seat next to him. "Ilias Voda!" His voice sounded bleak.

You've stepped in it this time." Jason Bourne relieved him of gun and knife. "What?" Yevgeny Feyodovich, shocked to be unarmed, was even more so to see how white and drawn Voda was. Bourne turned to him. "In this town you're thoroughly fucked, *tovarich*." (Lustbader, 2007:354)

From the quotation, the term *tovarich* or *tovarishch* comes from Russian language which means the companion or greeting for close friends. This Russian word is commonly used in Soviet era to show solidarity to his friend. The leaders of Soviet Union also use the term of *tovarich* in a speech to gain solidarity their people.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the strengths and the weaknesses of the novel *The Bourne Betrayal* by Eric Van Lustbader, it can be summarized as follows:

The first strength of the novel *The Bourne Betrayal* is unpredicted story line which makes the readers constantly curious and excited until the last story. The second strength is that the current author of *The Bourne Betrayal* successfully develops the story from the former author of the books, Robert Ludlum. Moreover, Eric Van Lustbader is able to give a soul to the main character where the readers without consciously growing their sympathy to the main character so they can feel that they are part of the journey.

The first weakness of the novel *The Bourne Betrayal* is the existences of storyline that does not make sense. The second weakness is the crucial point that a single terrorist can fool entire CIA agents by disguising himself into somebody else. The last weakness is the readers find some

unfamiliar abbreviations and strange terms which are not explained in this novel.

Finally, *The Bourne Betrayal* is one of a thriller book that is worth for critical considerations. It successfully presents unstoppable action which is highly recommended for people who like thriller story.

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